

ON
THE

GRAPEVINE

August 2018



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- **A WORD FROM THE GIRLS**...lots going on here
- **Men's and Women's Foursomes Championships**...don't forget
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- **RULE of the month**...slow play...please take note

From the President & Manager...Rob Dowling & Matt Chesterman

On behalf of the Committee of Management, I thank the members for their ongoing support. At the **Special General Meeting** last Tuesday, the 14th of August, 215 Members attended and in overwhelming fashion, supported the renovation of the Clubhouse, upgrade of the Club's Point of Sale & Memberships Systems and the Committee itself. The Committee & Staff of the Club can now get back to working on constructive items of business.

The rains have finally come! Whilst the rain can hamper an enjoyable round of golf, it was desperately needed, with our dams now all but at capacity. A couple of small events will just about have us there. Well done to Rob Millington and his team who have work feverishly to ensure that our pumping systems are up and running, harvesting water for what is expected to be a long, dry summer.

Entries have opened for the **Australian Mid-Amateur Championship**, Tuesday November 6th - Friday November 9th, being held here at the Club. It is an absolute privilege to be hosting a National Championship, the green staff already excited about showcasing our course to players from around the country. We are on the look out for a small number of volunteers for the event, mainly spotters on the golf course at a couple of our blind tee shot holes. As usual, you will be supplied with lunch and beverages during the event, and a small gift from Golf Australia. Please get in touch with Matt if you are interested in helping out. Having a home course advantage is rare in a National Championship so if you are aged between 30 & 55, playing off less than 8, get your entries in for this great event.

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REYNELLA MAZDA

(From the President & Manager...continued)

Coming up next month is both the **Men's and Women's Foursomes Championships**. Make sure you find a partner and have a go at the prestigious honour board events. Also on the Calendar is the **Ladies Fashion Parade**, be sure to check out the flyer and get along to this popular event.

The Committee also advises Members that Rod Gorton, VP Commercial Activities has resigned from the Committee. Rod has chosen to spend some more time focusing on his business, Elite Printing Studio. Rod has been on the Committee for 4 years and was pivotal to securing grant funding from the City of Onkaparinga for the upgrade of the irrigation pumps in 2015. ***We thank him for his service during this time.*** The position will remain a Casual Vacancy and will be called for election as part of the 2018 AGM in November.

2018
**MENS FOURSOMES
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**SUNDAY 16TH
SEPTEMBER**

**NOW INCLUDING
18 HOLE SENIOR
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP 36 HOLES FROM 7AM
SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP 18 HOLES FROM 11AM
GROSS & NETT EVENTS
\$20 PER PAIR INCLUDES BAGUETTE LUNCH**

**OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS
SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS
AGED 55+ AT DATE OF EVENT**

**ENTRIES CLOSE SUNDAY
9TH OF SEPTEMBER
ENTRY FORMS IN THE PRO SHOP AND
ADMINISTRATION**

A WORD FROM THE GIRLS...from Jan Shaw (VP Women's Golf)

The **Representative dinner** was a wonderful evening for all those who attended. Roz Brunton was the recipient of the Mary Grohs trophy for 2018.

Some brave souls went to Glenelg for the **Rhonda Watson Brooch**, which unfortunately was called off after about 8 holes, due to bad weather.

The Vines fielded two teams in the **Kooyonga Open Foursomes** last Friday. Congratulations to **Mary O'Hagan & Kathy Michaelsen** who were Runners-Up Nett on the day.

The **Nomads team** comprising a number of new golf players not familiar with Match Play won one game and lost the other against Blackwood. Likewise the team won a game against Flagstaff Hill and then lost the other. Thanks to Bev Cross and Alison Emmett for managing the team.

The Vines Golf Club have a team playing in the **Southern Shield Competition**. The team lost the game to Flagstaff Hill 2 to 3 and then beat Thaxted 3 to 2. The match at Westward Ho was called off because of the weather. Thanks to Angela Beaty for managing the team.

Upcoming events

Our **Club Foursomes Championship** for 18-hole members are being held from 10th September through to 14th September. Applications close on 31st August. If you are looking for a partner please speak to Angela Beaty or Kath Hender.

A **Fashion Parade** will be held at The Vines on Monday 17th September at 1.00pm featuring clothes from Snazzi Boutique in Blackwood. The cost is only \$8 and includes afternoon tea. Please register your interest by putting your name on the booking sheet in the locker room.

A fun golf day has been planned for Tuesday 25th September using the orange tees. Further details will be sent out closer to the date.

Thursday 4th October is our **GSA Open Day** commencing 8.30am for a 9.00am hit off. These days are a great way to show off our wonderful golf course to visitors from other golf clubs. The cost is \$30 for non-members and \$25 for members with lunch included. This year we are planning to have a trading table as it is a good fundraiser for the Club. Further information will be in the September Grapevine.

Southern Zone will be played at Blackwood & Flagstaff Hill this year on Monday 5th and Monday 12th November. The cost is \$15 and covers both days. This is open to anyone, so we need as many players as possible. Please put your name on the sheet in the locker room.

In memoriam

In August we lost two long term members of the Vines Golf Club.

Mignon Hogan a member for 11 years fought a long battle with cancer and passed away on 7th August. She was still playing in representative teams until June this year.

Jean Lloyd a member for over 30 years passed away peacefully on 13th August.

FROM COURSE SUB COMMITTEE...from Peter Shaw (Vice President, Course)

New by-pass pipe: We have been able to improve the efficiency for filling our dams using our existing pumping infrastructure. ***Our thanks go to Chris Baker (green keeping staff member) for coming up with a brilliant but simple idea.*** Normally we would harvest water from Ernest Crescent to fill the main dam at say 5 megalitres per 24hr cycle. We would then do the same to the Turkey's Nest dam with the rate dropping to about 2.5 megalitres per 24hr cycle, due to the extra height and distance the water has to travel. This is where the brilliant bit comes in - we now pump to the main dam only, at the higher rate, grabbing more water at each rain event. We have added a section of pipe from the irrigation pumps across to the new bore line that fills the Turkey's Nest dam. This allows us to start filling the Turkey's Nest dam while the pipes from the harvesting system continue to fill the main dam at the higher rate. The cost for the pipework was \$1800 but this will be recouped very quickly in power saving. By using the irrigation system, we only use one pump, and this cuts the runtime for the other 5 pumps in half. It also gives us much better flexibility because the irrigation pump can run 24/7, not relying on water availability from the harvesting system.

We have been very pleased over the past few weeks with regard to rain. Prior to that our situation was looking a little grim regarding filling the dams. So much so that we started pumping from the old bore. The BOM extended forecast for August to October was showing a high likelihood of lower than average rainfall for the period and an above average chance of an El Nino situation over the Summer period. Since then our fortunes have turned around dramatically. The current situation is that all dams are close to being full.

Problems at Ernest Crescent and Catch Drain. We have been experiencing difficulty at both sites with debris being washed into the water pick up areas during each rain event, and a build-up of silt at Ernest Crescent. The staff from Pump Technology Services, sponsors of the club, have gone well above and beyond expectations and stayed back well into the dark, to help us get the pumps running before the rains came. We are fortunate to have them on board. Some changes to the infrastructure at each site will be required. Pump Technology Services are investigating solutions. There is only one pump at Ernest Crescent and this part of the system is critical to the overall operation. We need to look at the installation of two new pumps as a failsafe, with next year's budget being prepared with this possible scenario in mind.

4th Fairway Dam. A couple of years ago this dam had a weed problem and was quarantined from use in any other dam. However, this water is used by pumping it to the holding tank next to the 7th hole and then used for irrigation. The capacity of the dam is about 1.5 megalitres.

New Staff Member Following the departure of Luke Merchant his replacement, **Nick Evans** will commence in early September. Nick is the current Assistant Superintendent at Tea Tree Gully Golf Club where he has worked for 17 years, and 10 years at Glenelg GC prior to that. This is a real coup for us as it happens that Nick lives close to our club and was looking to reduce his commute. He happens to be Jeff Hull's brother in law as well, and he comes with high praise from Jeff, and his Superintendent at TTGGC, Ivan Swinstead. Please say hi and have a chat when you can.

A working bee was held last Thursday morning splitting about 6 ton of logs for firewood that were located between the 13th and 11th fairways. The wood was then moved to storage below the old starter's office. The remaining branches will be removed from this area as soon as possible. Many thanks to those volunteers and staff who helped with this task.

Air2G2 Machine is about to be hired to another golf club netting our club \$2,400. This brings the total hire fee for this machine to \$6,000 over the past 18 months.

If you are considering becoming a volunteer (male or female) here are two possible ways to become involved: If you have a particular skill or interest have a chat to Matt Chesterman and he will put you in contact with the appropriate person. OR, if you would like more flexibility, the ODD JOBS group would probably best suit you. This group meets usually once a month on a Thursday morning for 2 to 3 hours light work. To join the group email info@vinesgolfclub.com.au and express your interest. You will then receive an email about a week before the next ODD JOB event and if you are able, turn up on the day. Simple.

feedback@vinesgolfclub.com.au The Course Sub-Committee is looking for your feedback on any issue that relates to the Course. Heard a rumour that doesn't sound right, and there are always plenty going around, send an email to the above address. Have a suggestion or criticism, write to the above address. All correspondence will be treated confidentially. We are keen to get for your feedback.



From the Captain...*Dean Nobbs*

Men's and Senior Foursomes Championships

Get yourself a partner, fill out an entry form (in the pro shop) and hit the course for a great day out at the Men's and Seniors Foursomes Championships on Sunday 16 August 2018. This year we have included a seniors event for members aged 55+ at the date of the event. The seniors event will be played over 18 holes from 11 am and the men's event will be played over 36 holes from 7 am. If you have ever wondered why the pros at the Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup struggle with this format, then this is your chance to give Foursomes a go. Golfers will compete in teams of two, using only one ball per team, and taking alternate shots until the hole is completed. Team members take turns in teeing off on each hole, i.e. one player will take the tee shot on odd-numbered holes, and the other on even-numbered holes. The men's 36 hole event is an Honour Board event.

Cooke Top 10 in NT

Our Pro Shop employee Peter Cooke finished T10 at the Northern Territory PGA Championships last weekend. Congratulations Peter on a great result against a quality field.

It's Warming Up

Spring is around the corner and the dams are filling up. Good rainfall over the last few weeks has filled the dams and softened the course up, making scoring more difficult. This hasn't dented some members form with notable scores from Olivia Nobbs (+4), John Moorfield (+3), David Gully (+2), Matthew Lee (43 points), Alistair Gilmore (Nett 70, 37 Points), Ian Delbridge (Nett 70), John Williams (+3), Peter King (+2), Malcolm Parsons (+2), John Shaw (+2), David Conroy (37 Points), Tony Nobbs (69 Nett), Neil Andrae (70 Nett) and Greg Kemp (Nett 70).

FINANCE...*from Greg Kemp (Vice President, Finance)*

End of Year Projections: One measure of the success of the whole operation is the amount of overdraft, or more specifically, the peak drawdown during the year. Members of previous Committee's will be aware that for many years we have run an overdraft around the \$200,000 mark until renewals start to arrive. At times we even exceeded that. We commenced 2017/18 owing just \$30,000 in this overdraft account, due to some sound financial decisions in the last few years.

During this financial year we expect to peak the overdraft at around \$85,000, caused as previously advised by many issues including the temporary kitchen closure, and the commencement of Golf Operations. This amount will be cleared from early Membership renewals, as outlined in the letter accompanying your membership fees.

We believe the Club will go into the new year with a sound underlying financial position, with the five year financial plan already identified to Members setting us up for a stronger result next year. We note that the above numbers are unaudited and will not be reflected in the end of year reporting due primarily to the effect of early payment of Membership fees and provision for depreciation etc.

Golf Operations: The Point of Sale (PoS) system in the Pro Shop is providing us with some very accurate sales data, due to the level of reporting it provides. While sales and net income look positive, it is difficult to measure as there was no budget established, and much of the stock was purchased as part of the handover so have an effective zero cost. Several lines can be measured however and these provide us with some positive results. Note that these results are from the quiet winter period.

Green Fee income has already exceeded budget by \$3,000 with two months of the financial year to go. Reporting has shown a very significant increase over the comparable period in the last two years, for example:

Total for July 2016	Total for July 2017	Total for July 2018
\$6,237	\$5,230	\$7,732

Cart Hire: Cart hiring to date indicates this service will provide the club with a positive income consistent with early estimates.

Membership: Membership provides around 60% of our income so is critically important to the financial health of the club. Membership Fees for 2017/18 will achieve an income around \$742,000. This compares with the budget of \$738,000 Membership numbers continue to increase across all categories, but we have not yet returned to last year's numbers.

Events: There are clear signs that the renovations has improved our offering for events in the clubhouse. Weddings especially are booked well in advance, so it will take time to fully reflect the improvements; however the month of August has five bookings this year, against two bookings last year. Clearly a more modern venue attracts clients.





RULE of the month...*explanation* *...from John Ward*

SLOW PLAY

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS GUILTY OF HOLDING UP THE FIELD?
HAVE YOU HEARD OF READY GOLF?

IF YOU HAVEN'T YOU WILL SOON BECAUSE IT WILL BE INCLUDED WITH THE INTRODUCTION
OF THE RULE CHANGES COMING INTO PLAY FROM JANUARY 2019.

HERE ARE A FEW GOOD GOLFING HABITS YOU MAY WANT TO GET INTO NOW

1. As soon as it is your turn to play, you should be ready to step right up and make the stroke.
2. You need not travel as a pack with all members walking together. Each player should walk directly to his/her own ball.
3. Use the time you spend getting to your ball to think about your next shot e.g. club selection and distance then you will need less time to figure out your shot.
4. If you are not sure where your ball finished e.g. out of bounds or lost, play a provisional ball so you won't have to return to replay the shot.
5. Begin to read the green as soon as you reach it. Don't wait until it's your putt.
6. NEVER delay making a stroke because you are having a conversation with any of your playing partners.
7. Try not to have too many practice swings as this wastes a lot of time.

If your group can save a minute on each hole you will play your round 18 minutes quicker.

**DON'T FORGET THERE ARE GOLFING POLICE OUT THERE AND IF YOU ARE NOT DOING
THE RIGHT THING THEY WILL GET YOU.**



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